NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1874.

### WASHINGTON.

THE CLAIMS OF NEW-MEXICO. A BILL TO ADMIT NEW-MEXICO AS A STATE PASSED BY A SURPRISINGLY LARGE MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE-AN INTERESTING DEBATE THEREON.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, May 21 .- The House voted to-day, by a surprisingly large majority, to make of New-Mexico the thirty-eighth State of the Union. There has been almost no discussion of late, in the news papers or in Congress, of the propriety of the admission of this Territory and the speedy passage of the enabling act, by a vote of nearly three to one-160 Yeas to 54 Nays-astonished the warmest friends of the measure. The result was largely due to the impression produced by the really excellent speech of the new delegate from the Territory, Mr. S. B. Elkins. It was one of the instances that are rare nowadays in the House, when a single speech earries conviction with it, and wins a majority of the body to the support of a measure to which they were before either hostile or indifferent.

The gist of Mr. Elkins's argument was that New Mexico had more inhabitants than 15 of the States had when admitted, and more than either Nevada or Oregon new has; that she has a stable, orderly and prosperous population, numbering over 91,000 in 1870, and now estimated at 135,000, with free schools and all the conditions of a permanent, civilized, self-sustaining society; that the settlement of the country ante-dated that of any portion of the United States except Florida, Santa Fé being an older city than Boston, and that the proclamation of Gen. Kearney, in taking possession of the territory during the Mexican war, and the Treaty of Guadaloupe, had also promised the people the same rights of self-government enjoyed by the people of the United States. Mr. Elkins laid much stress upon the latter portion of his argument, and claimed that Congress had treated the New-Mexicans unfairly in keeping them for 26 years in a condition of territorial vassalage, while creating many new States with less wealth and less adaptation for self-government.

Mr. Potter opposed the bill, and found in it a pertinent and convenient text for discussing the dangers likely to arise in the future from multiplying new States with a few thousand inhabitants, each to outweigh in the Senate the populous and wealthy States of the East. Sixteen Senators now represented a majority of the people, and 58 a minority. He feared that the large States would, some day, refuse to submit to be governed by the small ones, and that there would be a new secession movement. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Potter said, incidentally, that if he had the power to make a government of separate States, like ours, any one or more of them should have the right to go out of the Union at pleasure. This sounded very much like an indorsement of the old heresy of secession, and Mr. Cox attacked the sentiment sharply, thinking, perhaps, that by making the most of the opportunity, he might kill off one of the most promising candidates for the Democratic nomination of Governor of New-York.

An interesting feature of the debate, which was throughout, unusually vigorous and pointed, was Mr. Kasson's reply to Mr. Potter's criticisms on the character of the Senators sent to Congress by the small Western States, and the influence of money in securing their election. Mr. Hoskins of New-York made an effective, five-minute speech in support of the bill, and Mr. Geo. F. Hoar, who found an argument against it in the fact that five-sixths of the people of the Territory over 10 years of age cannot read or write, was unhorsed by Mr. Kasson, who reminded him that the Republican party was debarred from raising that objection after it had refused to educational qualification when it en franchised the blacks of the South.

The bill will be certain to encounter a much stronger opposition in the Senate than it met with in the House, and it will probably go over until next session without definite action.

## A WHITE HOUSE WEDDING.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER-A FES-TAL OCCASION AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION-INTERESTING AND IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES-PLEASANT INCIDENTS OF THE EVENT. INY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

Washington, May 21.—The arrangements for the marriage of Miss Grant were as quiet and unostentations as possible, considering the position of the to-day were intended to be of the simplest character. The whole management of details was left to the good judgment and quiet taste of Mrs. Grant. and there is probably no lady in Washington society more simple and considerate in her hospitality, combining good cheer with dignity and discrimination than the present lady of the White House.

The late bereavement in the family occasioned by the death of Judge Dent, together with the natural desire of the family of the President, was sufficient to suggest and make becoming a quiet marriage of their daughter with the young Englishman. The arrangements and ceremonies were well planned to secure this object, but they were carried out with such precision, skill, and liberality, that the wedding is to-night regarded as the best conducted and most ceremonious, though the most unostentatious, that ever occurred here. The good taste of it is generally commended, and the conduct of those having the details in charge is spoken of with high favor.

The time for the ceremonies was set at 11 o'clock. The guests had already gathered in the East room. The Marine Band of 40 pieces was in position in the hall. The gates of the grounds had been closed to the uninvited. The rooms had been most richly dressed in flowers, which filled the windows, fes tooned the walls, wreathed the columns, covered the mantels and tables, hung from chandeliers, and formed arches in the doorways, making a picture to be long remembered. The platform for the happy pair had been set in the center of the eastern side of the room, against the large window. The grand hall had been thrown open, and the attendants stood, watches in hand, ready to give the signal. The distinguished guests were gathered on either side of the dais. the groups reaching to the doors of the grand hall. White ribbons wreathed with flowers had been stretched on either side of the aisle thus formed, and at precisely 11 o'clock, to the music of the Wedding March, the participants passed from the hall into the parlor, and between the brilliant assembly, parted on either side. Mr. Sartoris and his "best man." Col. Fred. Grant, led the way, followed by the minister, the Rev .Dr. Tiffany, and the President attending his daughter. These proceeded to the dais, the music ceasing at the exact instant they arrived. It was a very pretty spectacle. Sartoris and Col. Grant reached the platform first, the former to the north, the latter to the south. Mr. Sartoris turned his face to the aisle to watch for the coming bride, and as the President stepped his foot upon the platform he surrendered his precious charge forever to other hands.

The ceremony was impressive, and to the President and Mrs. Grant appeared most touching. To the bride and groom it appeared simply as a matter of ceremony, having no particular signifi-The bride was in a particularly bright humor, her face being less serious than that of the groom. The rites were much like those of the Episcopal Church, although Dr. Tiffany is a Methodist, and pastor of the Metropolitan Church, where the President worships. The answers were given by the young couple in a clear, audible tone, and as the minister said, after taking their hands, "With the exchange of these rings you enter upon a new life, with new responsibilities under God," there was deep feeling among the spectators. The words were soon spoken that joined their lives in one.

Dr. Tiffany was the first to salute the bride, being

relatives. The floral decorations of the public rooms of the White House were marvelous in their beauty and profusion. Above the platform there were the heaviest festoons of the whitest flowers, tube-roses, lilies of the valley, spiren, and other choice varieties, lending a perfume to the room that was almost oppressive in its sweetness. Above the heads of the couple, suspended by a thread of flowers, was a large bell formed wholly of the rarest of white flowers-a present, it is said, from New-York friends. In the green room a bank of the same rare flowers was formed on an oval table. A stand of pot plants, most exquisite in their beauty and arrangement, reached from one side of the East Room to the ceiling, and, wherever flowers and evergreens

could be placed, there they were. The dress of the bride is spoken of by the ladies with much admiration. It is described as a mass of satin, lace, and orange blossoms, as fleecy and airy in its appearance as though it were made of swan's down. Her catalogue of new and fine dresses is said to number forty, and it was said by a lady whose knowledge is beyond all criticism that Nellie Grant takes with her the finest trousseau that ever went out of Washington. Half a dozen of the ladies present said her wedding-dress was the handsomest they ever saw. Its material was white satin the richest that could be found. It was trimmed with Brussels lace of the costliest character, a present from her father, who imported it for the purpose. The bridesmaids were also in white. Grant was dressed in black tissue silk, richly em-The ladies present were all richly attired, and the company being rather small, the

opportunity for display was unusual. The wedding breakfast was served after the presents had been received. It was a source of regret and surprise that none of the relatives of Mr. Sartoris were present, and, so far as known, they sent no present to the bride. They are in mourning for their eldest son, but it is understood that the most extensive arrangements are being made by Mr. Sartoris's family and personal friends to give his bride a welcome to which her position and parentage entitle her, and one that will do much to warm her heart toward the land which must henceforth

The President was asked to-day if he was satisfied to part with his only daughter. He said, "Yes, if she can visit us often enough." "And how often would you like her to visit you!" said the lady. 'I want her to visit us twice a year," said he, " and stay six months at a time." It is expected that they will return here some time during the Fall for a short visit, perhaps to stay all Winter. Mr. Sartoris has large landed estates in this country, and it was while he was coming to the United States to look after his property that he met his wife for the

DESCRIPTION OF THE FLORAL DECORATIONS-CERE-MONY AND BRIDAL GIFTS-A BRILLIANT PARTY AND A GLOWING DESCRIPTION.

## IGENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

Washington, May 21 .- The absorbing event of to-day is the marriage of Miss Graut to Mr. Sartoris, which took place this morning at 11 o'clock in the East Room of the Executive Mansion, Rev. Dr. Tiffany of the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church officiating. During the morning, and up to the hour the guests took their departure, the avenues leading to the Mansion were closed to all persons, excepting those invited to the wedding, and there were policemen on the grounds to prevent intrusion by outside parties, many of whom had gathered at the outer gates to see the guests ride into the inclosure.

The door-tenders had received strict orders to admit no one without invitation. The East Room, the scene of the wedding, was tastefully and elaborately rated with plants, flowers, and evergreens. On the cast side was a platform, raised about a foot from the floor, and covered with a portion of the earpet several years ago presented to the Government by the Sultan of Turkey. The platform was arched with evergreen and flowers, and from its center hung a marriage bell of large proportions, composed of the choicest white flowers. The splendid new chandeliers were also handomely decorated and lighted. Never before has the East Room presented so brilliant a display of artistic floral adornment as on the present occasion. Punctual to the hour the invited guests entered the East Room and arranged themselves in full view of the platform. The toilets of all the ladies were of the richest description, and there was a profusion of point lace variously word. The services were unusually brilliant, the large display of flowers, with their fragrance, adding to the charm of the interesting occasion

The bridal party, passing through the Blue Room, er tered the East Room. Their presence immediately hushed the company to silence. The approach was announced by music from the marine band. First came Mr. Sarroris and Col. Frederick D. Grant, the only groomsman; next the bridesmaids, two by two, the President and Miss Grant, Mrs. Grant and her two sons. Ulysses and Jesse. Taese were followed by relatives of the family. On reaching the platform the President transferred his daughter to Mr. Sarioris, who, with the bride, ascended the platform, where the officiating mir ister was in waiting to receive them. They took position under the floral wedding bell. The President and Col. Grant, together with Miss Barnes, one of the bridesmaids, were the only other persons in nearness to the bridal party on the platform, Mrs. Grant and her two boys standing in front, and the remaining seven brides aids on the side of the structure.

The bride wore a white satin dress elaborately trimmed with point lace, and a tulle vail, and her hair was adorned with orange blossoms. There was nothing particularly noticeable in the dress of the groom, which was, of course, in the latest style, with the conventional white necktie. The bridesmaids were the Misses Barnes Fish, Drexel, Dent, Porter, Conkling, Sherman, and Frelinghuysen. They were severally dressed in white corded silk covered with white illusion, with soft puffs and plaitings caught up with flowers. Their sashes were of the same material as the dresses. Four of these ladies were distinguished by pink roses and the other four by blue flowers.

All things being in readiness, the Rev. Dr. Tiffany proceeded with the ceremony according to the form of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Every one, as usual or such occasions, preserved a marked silence, and listened attentively to every word, while closely watching the manner and countenances of the bridal pair. The cere mony over, the minister was the first to kiss the bride. She immediately turned to her father, who embraced and kissed her. Then the mother approached and kissed her daughter, as did also the brothers of the bride, and numerous relatives and female friends. The newlymade husband enjoyed his share of the hand-shaking and orally expressed congratulations

The band played the Wedding March at the conclusion of the ceremony. Seventy carriages conveyed the guests to the Executive Mansion. Less than 200 persons were present, including the Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the Cabibet, Senators Frelinghuysen Carpenter, Cameron, Conkling, and Logan, Vice-President Wilson, Speaker Blaine, Gen. Sherman, Admiral Porter, Commodore Amman, George W. Childs, A. J. Drexel, Judge Pierrepont. Gen. Arthur, and Gens Porter and Babcock, and Sir Edward and Lady Thorn-The officers of the army and navy appeared in uniform. The persons above-named were accompanied by the ladies of their respective families.

After the congratulations were over, the company to the sound of music, proceeded to the library in the second story of the Mansion, where, on a series of tables, were displayed the elegant presents to the bride, the names of the donors being attached to all the articles. Among the most costly gifts was a dessert set of a pieces by George W. Childs, a complete dinner service by A. J. Drexel of Philadelphia, the combined value of these being probably \$4,500; Secretary Fish, a large silver tankard; Gen. and Mrs. Sharpe of New-York, a ring with stone cameo set with diamonds: Postmaster General Creswell, a very handsome silver ice-cream ser vice : ex-Senator Cattell, a diamond ring, five stones; L. P. Morton of New-York, an emerald and diamond ring. These two rings are probably worth \$1,000 each. Secretary Robeson, a toilet set and side pieces, brass, elaborately fluished, of the style of Louis XIV.; A. T. Stewart of New-York, the largest size lace pocket handkerchief, such as sell for \$500; Gen. Babcock, an elegant Valenciennes lace fan, with smoked pearl frame, with the monogram of the bride in gold. Mr. Sartoris presented 

the father of the bride is \$10,000. All the immediate | THE MILL RIVER DISASTER. members and relatives of the President's family gave handsome presents. The larger portion of the bridal

members and relatives of the President's land, handsome presents. The larger portion of the bridal gifts is from the house of Baily & Co. of Philadelphia, and a number from Tiffany & Co. of New York, and Streeve, Crump & Low of Boston. These presents were arranged and classified by George A. Barnard of the house of Baily & Co., who came hither for that especial purpose. These are sent to New York by express and placed on board the vessel in which Mr. and Mrs. Sartoris have taken passage for England, to depart on Saturday next at 12 o'clock.

The company partook of a wedding breakfast, elegantly prepared. The bill of fare was printed on white satin, and stated that the breakfast was from the Prisident and Mrs. Grant. in compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Sartoris. All the bridesmalds were presented with handsome bouquets. Little boxes, tied with white sik, containing weighting cake, were brought away by the guests. At 1:40 o'clock this afternoon the bride and groom left Washington in a special train for New York. Their Pulman palace car was handsomely decorated with flowers and evergreens and American and British flars. They were accompanied by Gen. Porter and Messis. Childs and Drexel and their families. On Fraday President and Mrs. Grant w 18 go to New York to take leave of their daughter on her embarkation for England, Tunes were played this afternoon on the iMetropolitan Church beils in honor of the marriage.

CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO BE BEGUN NEXT WEEK -PROBABILITY THAT THE FENTON AND ROBERTS

BILLS WILL BE COMBINED. [BY TRLEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 21.-The Senate Finance Committee will begin the consideration of the Moiety bills at its regular meeting on Tuesday next. It now seems probable that the bill they will report will be a combination of the Fenton and Roberts bills. The latter, by the abolition of all moieties, without making any new provisions for the compensation of customs officers, leaves many them with pay entirely inadequate The Fenton bill supplies this defect by providing for an entire reorganization of the Customs service, and fixing the salaries of officers at reasonable rates. As the Fenton bill was originally introduced it named the sum that should be received by the officers at the most important ports, and left the others to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, within certain limits. Mr. Edmunds attacked this part of the bill, when the question of reference was pending, on the ground that it placed a dangerous power in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Committee's amendment, which will probably be prepared by Mr. Fenton, will reach this objection by naming the salary of the officers at each ports in the United States. Outside of the principal port in the country, the highest salary provided by this amendment will be \$5,000, which will be the amounto be paid to the Collectors at such places as Buffalo New-Haven, &c. Then, as the amount of business decreases, the salary is reduced, until, at many of the smaller ports, the salary will be fixed at \$500, which will be the lowest salary paid. The compensation of Collectors has not been fixed arbitrarily in this amendment, but is based upon a eareful comparison of the amounts collected and the compensation received under the present laws by the Collectors at all the ports of the United States, exclusive of moieties. Combining Mr. Fenton's bill with the greater part of that of Mr. Roberts, the provisions of the latter relating to a fund for outside informers being stricken out, will probably produce a measure that will be acceptable to the merchants, while it will insure to the Government an honest collection of the revenue frem customs. No obstructions to the final disposition of this whole matter this session are now known, unless they exist in the Senate. The Finance Committee will without doubt report it promptly and the House will probably concur without hesitation in any amendments the Senate may agree to. The entire efforts of the friends of the reform should therefore be concentrated upon the Se to prevent unnecessary delays in the consideration of the Finance Committee's report.

CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. MR. FOSTER'S SPEECH ON THE SANBORN CON-TRACTS.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 21, 1874. The Sanborn contract report came up again this norning, and a proposition was made by Judge Poland for a further postponement, on account of the continued illness of Gen. Butler. Mr. Foster said that he had assurances from the very highest authority that the member from the Essex district did not desire any further delay, and thereupon proceeded to read his speech. The operations of Sanborn, and the discreditable conduct of the Treasury officials in aiding him to plunder the Treasury, been so fully discussed in the newspapers that Mr. Foster could not interest the House in a discussion of the subject. He succeeded in getting a good hearing, however. His speech was a clear, impartial, and exhaustive review of the testimony in the case, coupled with some very plain talk on the action of Messrs. Richardson, Sawyer, and Banfield in the matter, which will not be agreeable reading for those gentlemen, nor for the President, who appears determined to keep them in office. At the close of determined to keep them in onice. At the case, the speech, Mr. Beck offered his amendment to the bill, prohibiting Senators and Representatives in Congress from acting as attorneys or counsel for persons against whom suits are brought for violation of the revenue laws, or for any informer or custom-house employe, or claimant of drawbacks for taxes or customs dues. The bill then went over to give place to the New-Mexico bill.

THE SENATE CURRENCY BILL. The Senate Currency bill was reported to the House to-day, with the amendments agreed upon by the Banking and Currency Committee. Besides those already published, amendments adopted by the Committee this morning strike out the section requiring the banks to retain their legal-tender reserves in their own vaults; provide that the greenbooks to be retired, as new bank notes are issued, shall be canceled and carried to the account of the sinking fund; and changes the ninth section so as to make greenbacks convertible into coin or bonds, at par, after July 1, 1878, the Government to the option of redeeming them in coin or bonds, and the holder to be permitted to take either the five-four and a half, or four per cent bonds, now author-ized by law. The provisions of the bil, as amended, may be concisely summarized as follows:

First: Free banking; second: No reserves to secure circulation are required, and instead, the banks are to keep a redemption fund of five per, cent of their respec tive circulations on deposit in the Treasury for the redemption of their notes; third; Withdrawal of \$40 in greenbacks for every \$100 of additional bank currency issued, until the volume of legal tenders is reduced to \$300,000,000, beginning with the present outstanding amount, \$382,000,000; fourth: Conversion of greenbacks into bonds bearing 5, 41, or 4 per cent interest, after July 1, 1878, and the reissue of such converted notes for the purchase and redemption of the Public Debt.

The bill will probably be brought up for action on

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MOUTH OF THE

MISSISSIPPI. The Senate Committee on Transportation reported to-day in favor of the Eads plan of improving the mouth of the Mississippi River by means of jetties. Quoting largely from the report of the Board of Engineers who recently examined the plans of Major Howell for the construction of the Fort St. Philip Canal, the Committee conclude that further surveys borings, and other examinations and measurements are required before Congress would be warranted in making an appropriation to begin the work. In the mean time the Committee hold that the question whether it will be possible to open one of the natural mouths of the river may be settled with no expense to the Government unless the attempt is successful. The Committee recommend, therefore, that Capt. Eads be allowed to make a trial, and that, in the mean time an appropriation be made for further surveys and examinations on the route of the canal. Those who believe that the canal alone will furnish the relief desired will oppose the passage of this bill, believing that it will result in the failure of the jetty system, and so only postpone the day when the immense commerce of the Mississippi Valley will be

JOHN PAUL'S OBSERVATIONS.

THE DAM A DEATH TRAP-A WORK WITHOUT MONEY OR BRAINS-A SORRY CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER. FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WILLIAMSBURG, May 21 .- The rain is falling in orrents, as though it had been determined upon that the last remaining splinter of these fated villages should be swept away by flood. The work of clearing up the rubbish, which had been actively begun, is of course suspended in consequence, but the rain does one good work by at the same time ridding the valley of the curiosity-seekers and lookers-on who have infested it since the disaster. Yesterday they streamed through it in carriage, on horse, and on foot. Workers and material aid are more needed here at present than tourists and theories. There are live people here still, but they must be kept alive; they cannot be self-sustaining institutions for some time to come. Sympathy is an excellent thing in its way, but food, money, and clothes are better, and if the sympathizing multitude, instead of coming ground to express themselves the would put the cost of the trip into these things, and send them instead, the right end would be sooner reached. The last two bodies have been found, and the total loss of life is now known-147. But among all the many dead, you look in vain for the name of one of those who deserve to be. In company with Mr Hamilton E. Towle, known to the public as the engineer passenger, accidentally on board, who devised a steering apparatus which brought the Great Eastern safely into port when she lost her rudder, several years since, I visited the broken dam yesterday. The defects of its construction are apparent to the most superficial observer. A mud foundation where there should have been one of concrete, sand for mortar, where there should have been cement. Too little money was set apart for its building in the first place, and not enough of that went into the work. Mr. Towle sums it up that dams should be built with both money and brains, and it was attempted to build this one without either. It was a death-trap in brief, and the constructors are wholesale murderers. With hastily improvised surveying instruments we measured its hight, length, and breadth, and Mr. Towle's report you have in full below.

JOHN PAUL

### AN ENGINEER'S REPORT.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE RUINED DAM-HOW THE WORK WAS DONE-SHAMEFUL NEGLECT OF ORDINARY PRECAUTIONS-A MELANCHOLY STORY OF INEFFICIENCY.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: But little remains of the reservoir dam of the Mill River and Williamsburg Reserveir Company. There is, however, enough to clearly show that grave errors were committed in its construction. No sudden accretion of waters took place to burst this dam, as was the case of the numerous other dams of local mill ponds further down the stream of Mill River-but it burst. and evidently has been upon the point of bursting because it was totally inadequate to serve its intended purpose. In engineering terms, the structure had culpably insufficient coefficients of safety and stability. At this writing I have not had time to go into details of calculation to enable me to state pre cisely what these coefficients were in this particular case; indeed when the facts are fully stated it will be cen that a trifle more or less one way or the other would have made no material difference in the result. I mean to say that if the plans and specifications of this eservoir dam, as built, had be petent engineer that he would have foretold the result which has just happened.

I have tried to get the existing original specifications of this dam, to enable me to see if the work was done in accordance with them-but I was informed by a gentlenan who had just seen and read them, that he did no believe that they would be made public, or that I should e allowed to examine them. I can therefore only speak of what I actually saw or

the spot, and from the observations there made I shall draw the conclusions which follow.

The site of the reservoir dam is three miles above the rillage of Williamsburg, crossing a narrow valley or gorge bounded by steep hills on either side. The location is a good one, and there is every natural advantage that could be wished by the engineer to enable him to construct a permanent and thoroughly safe dam.

Taking a position a hundred yards below the line of fore him the gap or opening through which the pent-up waters grushed with such terribly destructive force. The remaining walls show that the devastating stream et loose on this occasion had a width of about 175 feet, and an average depth of about 35 feet.

The cross section of this stream was bounded at the side by two vertical walls about 30 feet high, and at the bottom by a remaining wall of 100 feet in length. This pottom wall is about eight feet high at the deepest point of the ravine, and extends nearly level on its top surface till it meets the eleping natural ground. This latter was the foundation upon which the entire structure was based and constructed. The soil and upper surface for a depth of about 30 inches was removed, and the hard remaining bottom, consisting of small stones embedded in tough earth thus expesed, was the natural oundation upon which the masonry of the dam rested. This is apparent by inspection of the ruins standing or

The before-mentioned bottom wall shows this portion of the masonry to be five feet thick. It is proper here to note that a small portion is made about two feet thicker by the addition of a patch stuck against the lower side at a place where the main part was not up to the exceedingly low standard shown by the adjacent

The reason why this remaining 100 feet of the bottom part of the wall was not carried away is, that it was sustained by a certain cross-wall about eight feet high which made an effective abutment for it. The office of this cross-wall was to support an iron pipe 15 inches in diameter and about 100 feet in length, through which the water from the reservoir was led through the base

Between the east wall and the easterly end of the bottom wall, a distance of 60 feet on the natural slope, there is not the slightest indication that the place was ever occupied by an artificial structure. Ascending the hillside to the level of the top of the dam, the general appearance of the ruins is as nearly as possible the same as if the work was part of a heavy railway embankment, with a vertical wall two feet thick at the top running through its length from top to bottom.

It strikes an engineer as remarkable to see that

his wall, fully 40 feet in hight, should have been built, as it was, in a straight line from one hillside to the other, when by constructing it on a curve, with the convex side up stream, the same wall would have been immensely increased in its resisting power and efficiency. For with the form suggested this wall would have been an arch laid upon its side, with everlasting hills for abutments. Of course, such an arch should be built with integrity and honesty in every foot of its contents. which cannot be said to be the case with the miserable straight-line cobble mural abortion under discussion It is totally unworthy of the diguity of being called good

It was not laid "regular" in its courses, nor with anything that an engineer could pass as good mortar. I mean to say that where the fracture was most likely to and did occur, in the place of good mortar of hydraulic cement, I found sand which I could readily remove with my fingers, and of which I have retained a specimen. If any theory in respect to the duty and functions of his wall was held by the incapables who designed and executed it, so far I have been unable to ascertain what

It is most likely that the wall was relied upon as the principal obstacle to stop filtration through the embanknent forming the body of the dam, which of itself was lly adapted to serve this purpose.

"Rip-rap" resting upon a stratum of earth covering a ayer of brush presents a face of sloping stone-work on that part of the embankment on the up-stream side at west end of the dam. Nothing, however, appears which would be generally impervious to water till the vertical wall is tracued. I find grave reasons for think | Litton, Penn , May 19, 1874.

ing that the water of the reservoir actually passed

The wall itself and alone, had it been made of the

best materials and in the best possible imanner, as located would have been totally inadequate to resist the pressure incident to a head of 40 feet. This must have been clear even to an unprofessional, iffhe gave the subject any thoughtful consideration whatever. Hence reliance must have been placed mainly upon the heavy sandy embankment which the wall was intended to have rendered water-tight. The water was comparatively free to percolate and find its way through to the wall, and the wall yielding in slight degrees from its normal position of a straight line, became weaker and weaker, till finally the steady pressure and weakening percolations overcame all resistances and the crowding mass of

water was set free. I will not now state how thick a wall of masonry of any given transverse section should be to exactly bal-ance the statical pressure due to a head of 40 feet, and if I did, such information would be useless, but I will here state that authorities fix the proper thickness of a masonry dam 40 feet high as 28 feet at the base, and 12 feet at the top, and I have myself constructed dams of my soury in deep water with a top width of 20 feet. No rule can safely be given for general application, as every case has its peculiarities which should be duly considered before the engineer can determine what is safest and best, and after he has done all that is possible with experience and mathematics, he should at last apply what I cannot here describe better than by calling t the coefficient of common sense.

In conclusion, the Mill River reservoir dam at Willamsburg failed:

First: Because the design or plan on which it was built was imperfectand faulty. Second: Because the execution of the work itself was slighted and not done carefully in a workmanlike man-

Third: The materials used were not of proper quality for the intended purposes. HAMILTON E. TOWLE, Civil Engineer. New-York, May 21, 1874.

HEARING BEFORE THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

TESTIMONY TAKEN REGARDING THE LOSSES TO THE TOWNS-A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION URGED. Boston, May 21 .- The Special Legislative

ommittee appointed to visit the scene of the Mill River disaster having returned, held a meeting to-day in the Committee-room of the State House and took testimony in regard to town damages. The loss to Northampton was first investigated. H.

K. Starkweather, Chairman of the Selectmen, said that ten bridges, all but one of which were nearly new, had been swept away. The cost of the bridges with the damage to the highways, would make a total loss to the town of \$80,000. The valuation of Northampton is \$8,000,000 and the debt \$600,000. Many hundreds of acres of rich meadow-tand, worth from \$200 to \$300 an acre, are totally ruined. The engineer figures up 90 acres at \$13,000 in one place, and in another place \$75,000 is lost to The Committee then took up Williamsburg. B. S.

Johnson, cashier of the Williamsburg Bank, stated that about one-third of the village had been destroyed. Of the valuation of nearly \$1,600,000, one-third had been swept away, and with a loss of business and deprecia tion, there must be a loss of taxable property of \$800,000. In the village of Leeds the two button factories and the boarding-houses involve a loss of over \$100,000. In Florence there is \$15,000 loss to buildings and ma

chinery. Lewis Bodman of Williamsburg suggested that the town be relieved partly of its taxes for several years. If their roads and bridges could be restored and their water power replaced, they could do the rest for their

The Hon. Hiram Nash of Williamsburg was the last witness, and he explained the conditon of the roads and bridges.

Mr. H. W. Bond of Northampton made a brie f address in which he urged the Committee to relieve the two towns from taxation, and to rebuild the roads and bridges, as he believed this had been done by the State in past years on several occasions. He said there were parts of about 100 families left who had lost everything they had a the world, and these he thought the Legislature should help, as they really were in the position of paupers, and for such it could hardly be denied that the State had a right to appropriate money for their assistance. After a few remarks by Messrs. Brewster and Bedwell of the same town, the hearing closed.

### RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS. THE SUBSCRIPTIONS IN THIS CITY.

The subscriptions in this city yesterday for the relief of the sufferers by the recent disaster in Massachusetts amounted to over \$3,000, making the total sum thus far raised about \$16,500. THE TRIBUNE ac 

Septem	flood-Cash	2.00
Septem.   7 00   Geo. W. Frost, Ithaca   5 00   Montrose   5 00   E. J. N.   2 00	Total	5007 55
C. H. & T. D. Blake of N	os. 79 and 81 Worth	st. re-
ceived the following:		
Reported in TRE TRIB-	Fawcett, Benedict & Co	50 00
EFR\$7,873 00	J. B. Hoyt & Co	50.00
Daniel Le Roy 100 00	W. & R. Stout	50 00
Thomas & Co 50 00	Duden, Freres & Co	50 00
Denny, Poor & Co 50 00	Thomas Keek	25 00
Cash 35 00	Geo. Palen & Co	25 00
James S. Noves 100 00	J. A. Van Woert & Co	25 00
Lesher, Whitman & Co., 100 00	M. Armstrong & Sons	25 00
Butler, Pitkin & Co 50 00	W. Creighton Lec	25 00
Noves. White & Co 50 00	Lehmater Bros	50 (0
Wm. Topping & Co 25 00	Sarah Gosh	5 00
A Friend 1 50	Jones, Underhill & Scud-	
M. L. D 10 00	der	25 00
3. C 10 00	W. T. Merrill.	25 00
Dunn, Barlow & Co 100 00	Frank Marquand	50 00
Elliot C. Cowdin & Co 100 CO	Buckley, Dunton & Co	50.00
Wm. L. Chamberisin 25 00	Geo. A. Clark & Bro	100 00
M. A. P 43 68	H. J. Brimmer, Adams,	
Schults & Southwicks 100 00	N. Y	5 00
Martin Kalbfleisch's Sons 100 00	H. W. F. Mail & Co	100 00
Loring, Andrews & Son., 100 00	Mulford, Cary & Conklin.	25 00
Vone Dinsmore & Co 50 00	Edwin C. Burt	25 00
1 0 0 mm 1 h Ca 50 00	J. Morius	25 00

Mrs. Barre.. One package of clothing. Franklin Allen, Secretary of the Silk Association of America, received the following for the relief of the silk operatives on Mill river:

Total.....\$10,083 15

| John H. Draper & Co.... | Ojephant & Co..... | John T. Walker. | ...\$1,100 : John ff. Draper & Co ..... ......\$2.050 A subscription of \$25 was received yesterday by L. M. Hill of No. 548 Broadway, from L. Weddigen & Co., making a total on his list of \$725.

RECAPITULATION. \$569 55 | Per L. M. Hills ..... \$725 00 10,083 18 Total......\$16,486 73 

THE WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION. One of the heaviest firms affected by the disaster isnes the following circular:

sues the following circular:

DEAR SIR: Our works at Haydenville, Mass., were destroyed by the flood on Saturday, the 16th inst. We desire to assure our friends that this will not interfere with our business, and they can rely upon having their orders promptly executed, as we have on hand a large stock of manufactured goods at our warehouses in New-York and Boston. New works have been contracted for to be built at once upon the site of those destroyed, and our facilities for manufacturing will be equal to any demands that may be made upon us. Until these are finished, the manufacturing will be carried on in our iron works which escaped the flood. Thanking you for your many favors, we assure you that our best energies will be given to your orders. Yours truly,

HAIDEN, GERE & CO.

No. 84 Beckmanst., New-York, May 18, 1874.

AN INVITATION TO REBUILD IN THE WYOMING VALLEY.

to the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: It is, I trust, with no desire to make gain from the misfortunes of those who have lost so

heavily by the late catastrophe in Massachusetts that I make the suggestion I am about to offer. I recognize these unfortunate capitalists as the flower of New-England's enterprise. They will desire to rebuild and reestablish somewhere; but not, I infer, upon the sites which have been so fatal. At this opportune moment I desire through your columns to direct their attention to the Wyoming Valley. Here coal is abundant and cheap, desirable situations are often given away and capital lent to aid manufacturers. Railroad facilities are equal to those of Massachusetts, while a hom market would demand much of their wares. Will no some of these unfortunate Massachusetts men take look at Pittston, Seranton, Wyoming, Wikesbarre Kingston, Plynouth I At any of these points coal and railroads are available, and all are within eight hour of New York.

Ditten, Fran May 19 1874

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

### FOREIGN NEWS.

THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

NEW CABINET ORGANIZED-OBJECTION BY THE MODERATE RIGHT TO THE REPUBLICAN TEND-PNCY OF THE PROGRAMME-CAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS ON THE BOURSE.

Paris, Thursday, May 21, 1874. The new Cabinet was organized this afternoon by he addition to those members already given of the Duke d'Audiffret-Pasquier, "without portfolio;" Gen. Cissey, Minister of War; M. Waddington, Minister of Education ; the Marquis de Montaignac, Minister of Marine; and M. Bodet, Minister of

At a subsequent meeting, however, the members of the Moderate Right objected to the Republican tendency of this programme, and M. Waddington declined the portfolio of Education. This action destroyed the proposed combination to conciliate both Centers and reopened the crisis.

President of the Assembly Buffet, the Duke Decazes, and other members of the combination afterward held a conference with President MacMahon, the result of which is not yet known. LONDON, Thursday, May 21, 1874.

The Times's special dispatch from Paris says that the weakness on the Bourse is attributed to a report that 300 Deputies have signed a motion for the dissolution of the Assembly, but the truth is that it is due simply to the prolongation of the Ministerial LONDON, Friday, May 22-5 a. m. A Paris dispatch to The Standard says it is thought that combinations made last night to complete the

Ministry will be successful, and that the names of

the new Ministers will probably be promulgated to-

day, with Decazes or D'Audiffret-Pasquier at the

head. Bonopartists and Legitimists will be ex-

cluded. THE MEMBERS OF THE MINISTRY AS LAST CONSTI-TUTED.

Louis Gabriel Leonce Guilhaud de Lavergne, the Minister of Commerce, is a French journalist and political economist. He was born Jan. 24, 1899, at Bergerac (Dordagne), and was educated at Toulouse. He became one of the principal editors of the Revue du Midi, published in Toulouse, contributing also papers to the ransactions of the scientific academy of that city. Declining a professorality offered him at Montpeller, he went to Paris in 1838, and four years later entered the Council of State as Master of Requests. He afterward became sub-director in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, District of Lombez. Being a steadfast Orleanist, he resigned his post in the Foreign Office at the overthrow of Louis Philippe in 1848. He has sat with the Right Center, and voted in favor of repealing the laws excluding the Orleans family and the validity of the election of the Orleans primes. He opposed the neutral policy of the French Government on the Papal question, as well as the return of the Assembly to Paris.

The Duke Decares is the advented of the return of the

The Duke Decazes is the cidest son of the late Duke Decazes, who died in 1860. He was born in 1819, and vas embassador both at the courts of Spain and Portugal for some time, during the reign of Louis Philippe. The revolution of 1848 caused him to retire to private life. He has been member of the Council-General in the Gironde, and in 1869 was an unsuccessful candidata or the Corps Legislatif, having been defeated by the Government candidate. At the general election of 1871 he was returned in the Gironde to the National Assembly, and has acted therein with the Right Centre, fayoring to some extent the pretensions of the Orleanists.

Ernest Cezanne, the Minister of Public Works, is an

ngineer. He was born at Embrun (Hautes-Alpes) in 1830, and was graduated at the Polytechnic School in Paris. He has held several important appointments as engineer and raffroad manager in Austria, Russia, and France. In 1872 he was elected a member of the Council-General of his native district. M. Oczania has contributed to the Annales des Ponts et Chaussies, and published in 1864 a work on the iron bridges of the Russian railreads. Gen. Courtet de Cissey, the Minister of War, was bern

in Paris in 1812, and received his military education a the School of Saint Cyr. He took part in the African and Crimean wars, and attained the rank of General of Division in 1863. During the France-German war he served in the Army of Metz, and behaved with galnantry at Gravelotte. He was elected to the National Assembly in February, 1871, and on the 5th of June was appointed Minister of War by President Thiers. He introduced many reforms, and showed masterly ability in reorganizing the grany; but having endeavored to exonerate partially Marshal Bazamas he became unpopular with the Assembly, and resisted in June, 1872. He acts with the Right Center or Liberal Conservatives. lantry at Gravelotte. He was elected to the

The Dake d'Audiffret Pasquier, Minister without a portfolio, is member of an ancient house. He was born at Paris in 1815, and began his political career during the at Paris in 1815, and began his pointest career during the reign of Louis Philippe, when he was, for three years, Auditor in the Council of State. He held aloof from National politics during the Empire, and recatered public life as member of the present National Assembly. He has supported Orleanist interests, and was among the delegates who called on M. Thiers in June, 1872, with the view of impelling him to adopt a reactionary policy.

William Henry Waddington, the Minister of Public

Instruction, is of English descent, and was born at Paris Instruction, is of English descent, and wealthy cotton spinner, and studied at Cambridge. Returning to France he became a citizen of that country, and devided himself to antiquari in researches, traveling extensively in Greece and Asia Minor. In 1871 he was elected to the National Assembly, and has voted with the Right Center. M. Waddington is author of two books of forces of travel.

The Marquis de Montaignac, the Minister of Marine, is 40 years, and took part in the Crimean war. He served in the defense of Paris against the German forces, and was elected in 1871 to the National Assembly, receiving 51,165 votes. He is opposed to Liberal measures. In 1872 he was appointed inspector of the channel fleet and forts.

## THE CARLIST WAR.

REPORTED EXECUTION OF WOMEN BY THE CARLISTS -DEFEAT OF INSURGENTS IN TARRAGONA AND CATALONIA. MADRID, Thursday, May 21, 1874.

It is reported here that the Carlists shot several women last Sunday.

A fight took place in the province of Tarragona to-day

between a force of Republicans and a body of Carlists, resulting in the defeat of the latter. The insurgents lost 60 killed and many wounded. The casualties on the Republican side were 5 killed and 90 wounded. A body of Carlists in Catalonia, numbering 2,000 men, nas also been defeated by the National troops, with the

oss of 21 killed and 14 taken prisoners. Gen. Coucha has reoccupied the town of Orduna. THE SANDWICH ISLANDS,

### ADDRESS OF THE KING TO THE LEGISLATURE-A CESSION OF TERRITORY DEPRECATED.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21 .- The steamship Mikado brings Honolulu advices to May 9.

The Hawalian Legislature was convened on the 30th

of April, in the presence of about 1,000 persons. The king delivered an address. He said the resources of the country had been greatly depleted by extraordinary excountry had been greatly depicted by extraordinary ex-penses necessary for the removal of lepers to Molokal, the burial of two sovereigns, and the election of their successors. He favored a commercial treaty with the United States, but deprecated any cession of territory to that Government. He favored the furnishing of facilities for steam navigation with San Francisco and Australia, and recommended the establishment of a commission of learned men to codify the laws of the tingtom.

kingdom.

The Legislature has defeated the proposed amendment of the Constitution separating the House. This measure was advocated by the late King Lunalite, who hoped thereby to restore the Constitution of 1852.

# FOREIGN NOTES.

The Czar left England yesterday on his return to Russia.

The Prussian Diet was prorogued yesterday

vithout any formal ceremonies. Of the three American students drowned in Lake Geneva, one was named Grant, and the other two were brothers named Woodbury. Ten persons have been arrested at Cork on

uspicion of being concerned in the mysterious disap-earance of some arms from the barracks. The London Globe gives currency to a rumor that the British frigates Narcissus and Endymion are

ashere at Palerme, and that the corvette Raccoon is ashere at Bermuda. The duel between the Count of Montebello and Prince Metternich was fought yesterday at Meudon,

The weapons used were swords. The Count was wounded in the arm and disabled.